

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

SS-15 NSC-05 EB-07 H-02 /070 W  
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R 141730Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1814

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 5279

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2682

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, CA

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON REDUCTION IN CANADIAN FORCES

REF: A. OTTAWA 1766

B. USNATO 2609 (NOTAL)

1. UPON RECEIPT OF REF A, MISSION OFFICER CONTACTED CANADIAN DRC REP (COL SHEFFIELD) TO ASK WHETHER HE HAD ANYTHING TO ADD TO HIS REMARKS AT MAY 9 DRC MEETING ABOUT PRESS REPORTS ON POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN CANADIAN FORCES IN EUROPE (REF B). SHEFFIELD HAD NOTHING NEW OF SUBSTANCE TO REPORT, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT PRESS REPORTS CONTAINED "GROSS INACCURACIES" ABOUT NATURE AND CURRENT STATUS OF DEFENSE REVIEW. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD RECEIVED WORD FROM OTTAWA THAT MOD RIGHARDSON WOULD HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT DEFENSE REVIEW AT DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING ON MAY 22-23.

2. MISSION SUPPORTS EMBASSY OTTAWA'S SUGGESTION THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER WEIGHING IN WITH GOC BEFORE DEFENSE REVIEW REACHES FINAL STAGES. WE NOTE THAT, IN ADDITION TO OBVIOUS SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS A MAJOR REDUCTION IN CANADIAN FORCES IN EUROPE WOULD HAVE FOR MAINTENANCE OF US FORCES HERE, SUCH A REDUCTION IN GROUND FORCES WOULD BE DIRECTLY CONTRARY TO FIRM CONFIDENTIAL

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ALLIANCE POLICY ON MBFR. THE ALLIES HAVE REPEATEDLY DECLARED THEIR AGREEMENT, IN MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE OF BOTH NAC AND DPC, THAT NATO FORCES SHOULD NOT BE REDUCED EXCEPT IN THE CONTEXT OF AN MBFR AGREEMENT. THE UK, IN ITS DEFENSE REVIEW

ABIDED BY THIS AGREEMENT IN ASSURING THE ALLIES THAT NO REDUCTIONS WERE ENVISAGED IN THE CENTRAL REGION, IN ADVANCE OF AN MBFR AGREEMENT. THE NETHERLANDS, IN ITS DEFENSE REVIEW, HAS SIMILARLY STATED THAT THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT WILL CONFORM WITH AGREED NATO MBFR POLICY REGARDING UNILATERAL FORCE REDUCTIONS.

3. CANADIAN ALL-AIR OPTION, WITH A 50 PERCENT REDUCTION OF CANADA'S NATO-COMMITTED PERSONNEL, COULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED PRIOR TO AN MBFR AGREEMENT WITHOUT VIOLATING CANADA'S COMMITMENT THAT NATO FORCES SHOULD ONLY BE REDUCED IN THE CONTEXT OF MBFR. ALLIED UNITY ON THIS PRINCIPLE HAS GIVEN EACH NATO GOVERNMENT A STRONG ARGUMENT AGAINST PARLIAMENTARY PRESSURES FOR UNILATERAL TROOP CUTS OUTSIDE MBFR. ANY BREACH OF THIS PRINCIPLE WOULD INCREASE PRESSURE IN SEVERAL NATO COUNTRIES FOR UNILATERAL TROOP CUTS NOW, AND WOULD ENDANGER THE PROSPECTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL MBFR NEGOTIATION.  
BRUCE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 18 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 MAY 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975NATO02682  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** NATO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Office:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** A. OTTAWA 1766 B. USNATO 2609 (NOTAL)  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 APR 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <07 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS REPORTS ON REDUCTION IN CANADIAN FORCES  
**TAGS:** MPOL, NATO, CA  
**To:** STATE  
SECDEF INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS  
MBFR VIENNA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006